

NBBA NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE OF THE TRADITIONAL ARCHER

No. 8

Newsletter Editor: Ronald Bushemi.

SPRING / SUMMER 1984

Newsletters printed semi-annually

THE NATIONAL BARE BOW ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1630 Grand Central Station New York, New York 10017

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

So much is happening that I would again like to address myself to more than one subject in this letter to our membership.

The Crossbow

A Senator Johnson has introduced a bill in the New York State Legislature to legalize the crossbow. A massive lobby is underway across the country. It is well

coordinated since the story line is always the same. Marketing directors argue that the crossbow is after all at best, a short range weapon and will not have a great impact on our sport. BULL!

As soon as it is legal, they will create the compound crossbow with 60 inch limbs and telescopic sights that will take the eye out of a deer at 100 yards. We witnessed the same chain of events with the first simple two wheel compound. Remember?

Passage of this bill will throw ten's of thousands of gunhunters into the Bow season and be a poachers dream.

Perhaps it's time for either—or.

Let's hear from you on this.

The Stump Shoot

Inquiries are coming in from all over the country on the Stump Shoot.

It will be a gathering of some of the finest Bare Bow shooters in the country.

September 22nd and 23rd with the course open for practice on September

21st all day.

Remember—The Lexington course is open weekends during the summer beginning June 15th. Call 518-734-3339. Don't miss this one. **Be there.**

The A.A.C. (American Archery Council) Guess what! We were invited by the newly organized AAC to attend their meetings with the following restrictions—no seat on the board and no vote. I have written to Mr. Shubert—OUR ANSWER—Thanks, but no thanks. It is obvious that they are not interested in an open dialogue as they claim and are still controlled, in my opinion, by the American Manufacturers Organization (AMO) Sad.

The String Tracker

Reports continue to come in on this game killer. Surely our wild turkey are in jeopardy and many will suffer the same fate as hundreds of Brown Pelicans in Florida. Again, we call upon the Game Departments in all states to outlaw this gadget.

In closing, may I say that for many years a great many people worked very hard to establish a special season for Bow hunters to practice their unique sport under the very special conditions primitive weapon bow hunting requires.

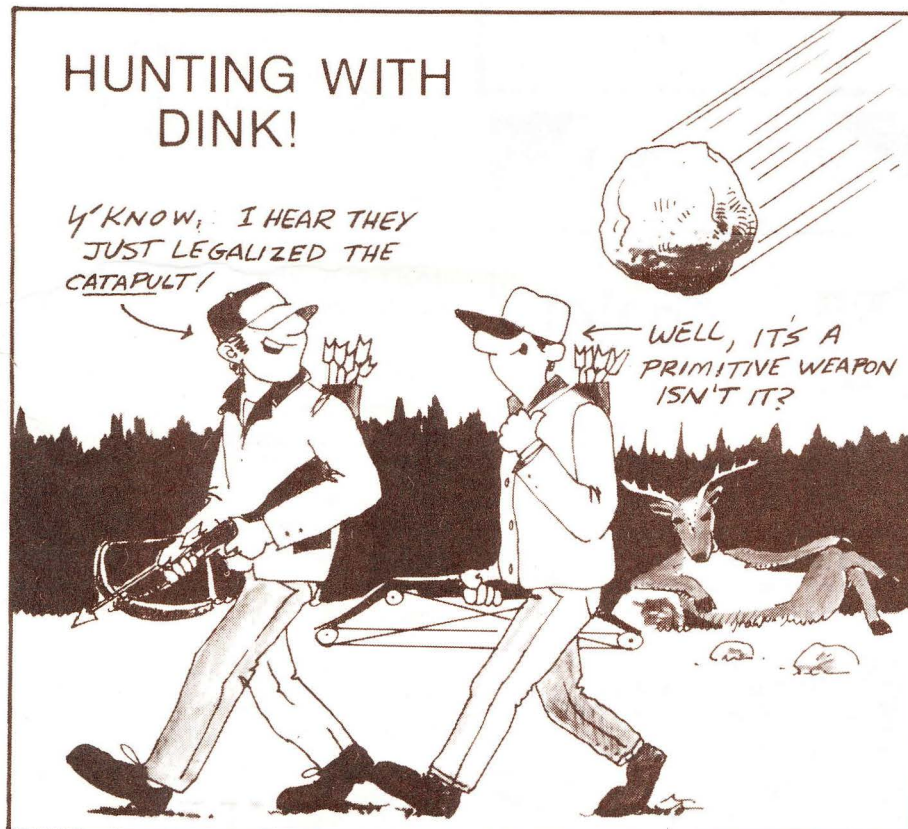
I am one of the bowmen who has, over the years, been privileged to have experienced the challenge of Bare Bow archery. I want future generations to experience it also.

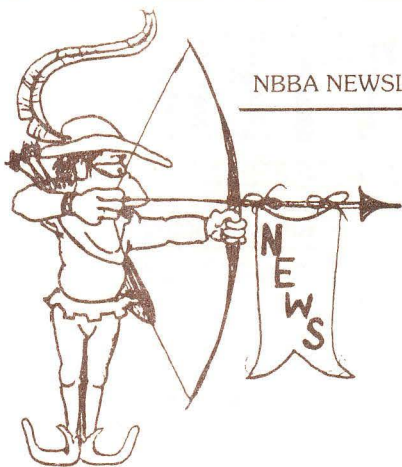
There are few noble and truly beautiful things we experience in our lives. There are a few rare moments that we can reflect upon and realize that at that moment we were whole and in touch with the beauty, and serenity of nature. Archery has given me my share of these priceless moments. We traditional Bow hunters must stand together to protect our sport. It is worth protecting! The alternative? Go out and buy your Blaze Orange.

Good Hunting

John Musacchia

John Musacchia
President NBBA





PBS PROFILE...

PBS President Paul Shannon of North Dakota, and former Vice President of the Pope & Young Club says his greatest worry today is that "the crossbow development and its increased usage will cause a severe reduction in archery hunting seasons. This perversion of our sport has to be contained. The crossbow doesn't have a place in the regular bow seasons for the general public. Here in North Dakota, we have recognized this and allow crossbow use only by paraplegics or amputees who cannot conceivably use a regular bow."

Note:

Thanks to President Paul Shannon for his stand on the Crossbow. It is hoped that the NBBA and the PBS can join hands in fighting the legalization of the crossbow across the nation.

The Minnesota State Archery Association Bowhunter VP would like to lower the minimum bow weight for deer from 40 lbs. to 30 lbs., for cam bows, says Mike Boeckman, Minn. Rep. for NBBA. Mike reports that he does not find anyone who agrees with that. . . .

NBBA has started a new slogan in our Ads in various archery magazines. The sub caption now reads "Archery that's challenging, not easier." We hope this gets the message across to those who want more out of archery than they've gotten so far. . . .

Comments from a number of Reps. in various states indicate great interest in setting up stump shoots in their areas. We are working toward making that a reality. More details on this in our fall newsletter. . . .

Vern Struble our Oregon Rep, has written an urgent request to all our members. It appears on this page. We hope you all respond to his request. *This is a threat to all archers, in all states.*

Have a good summer, see you in the fall. —Editor.

NBBA / JUDO STUMP SHOOT (The Traditional Competition)

**Sept. 22 and 23, Lexington, N.Y.
Preshoot practice day Sept. 21
All day.**

If you missed it last year, be there this year. The course is open for practice starting June 15. Call 518-734-3339 for complete information.

BE THERE!

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AN URGENT MESSAGE TO ALL NBBA MEMBERS

Fellow Bowhunters,

Dear ladies do not take offense, take heed, for I address you equally with your husband, brother or friend.

I address this letter to you, wherever you are in the hope it will move you to act.

I am about as far away from the problem as anyone can get and still reside in the lower 48, as our Alaska counterparts would say, but I am concerned because I have just been informed that there has been introduced into the New York State Senate, bill #7074, which reads in part, "A Junior Archery License, entitles a holder who is between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years to hunt wild deer and bear with a longbow **or crossbow**, during the special archery season and during the regular season in areas restricted to bowhunting only, as provided in title 9, as if he held a big game license with a bowhunting stamp affixed," and on and on.

The statute currently exists without the words "or crossbow" underlined above. The statute goes on to give hunters eighteen and over the same privilege.

I am certain that Senator Johnson introduced this bill with very little knowledge of the impact this could have on the safety of bowhunters and others.

Each and everyone of us need to write senators and assemblymen, in the state of New York and voice our concern. We need emphasize the very limited range of the bow. Certainly not a characteristic of the crossbow.

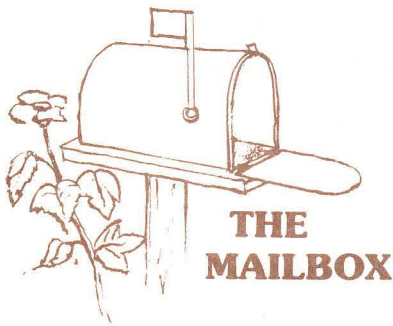
I have knowledge of a crossbow, that has a draw weight in excess of 1000 lbs. That's right, one thousand pound draw weight and it can be cocked in the field by a 12 year old.

The introduction of the crossbow into archery seasons and areas could be a disaster to an otherwise, very safe sport.

Let's not make any effort to deny the crossbow a hunting season, if in fact there is sufficient interest to warrant it, but let's put it where it belongs. That has to be with the general rifle season or a separate season of its' own.

The crossbow of today has the range and capability of many rifles. In the state of Oregon we have areas that are restricted to bow and arrow; or shotguns with slugs or double O buckshot. This restriction is necessary because of more than average density of farms of dwellings

Continued on P. 11



Dear Mr. Mussachia,

Along with our membership applications, my husband and I wanted to thank you for your hospitality at the Stump Shoot on Sept. 24 & 25.

Everyone was very helpful and informative, and most of all friendly!

I am a newcomer to archery, even though my husband and sons have been archers for many years.

After reading and learning about the goals and principles of the NBBA, I am convinced you deserve our support. We are looking forward to next year's shoot, and thank you again.

Sincerely,
Marianne Trevele

John, N B B A Members,

What a pleasant surprise to be reading your newsletter after filling out my membership application and finding out Dave Means is your Pa. representative. Dave is one of the finest sportsmen and most dedicated bow hunters I have ever met and I'll be proud to be part of any organization he is associated with.

I've hunted with bow and arrow since I've been 12 yrs. old, and shot my first buck in Pa. four point at the age of 13 with a Colt 40# fiberglass recurve. I purchased a Bear grizzly 45# recurve at age 15 in 1963, and have hunted with it until recently. At the present time I also have a Bear Victor A take down (52#) and am finishing a Bingham take down (53#) which I'll soon be completing, and I'm looking for a set of limbs for my Presentation II wood visel take down. That's enough of my history, glad to be aboard.

Good Hunting,
Keith Gaines

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing for your free information booklet regarding your advertisement in traditional archery digest.

I have been an avid bow hunter for several years. But just recently recaptured the mystic of the stick, so to speak. My re-

cent purchase of a beautiful black widow has made bowhunting the type of experience I want my young sons to someday know, not just a race for more technological advances of power speed and hardware. It has made me learn to rely on my self again in a way I hope they too will someday come to know.

If this is the type of association you folks are I think I would find it an honor to wear your patch and actively support your group which by the way I hear is a very elite group.

Thank you so much,
Dick Bright
Grand Junction, Co.

Dear NBBA,

I received my membership to the NBBA today. I had just gotten home from a groundhog hunt in the mountains of N.C. with my friend Richard Rumpfelt (N.C. repres.) and his brother Barry. Though the weather was still too cold for the hogs to be out we did have a lot of fun shooting longbows and talking traditional archery. I did fall into one of the icy mountain creeks early this morning and nearly froze. My Osage Orange bow and back quiver also took a dunking. Even with the disaster we had a great time.

Richard was telling me that last week he went to a local archery shop. While there he saw some so-called archers shooting in the indoor range. They had compounds complete with lighted sights, bright and dim, stabilizers and release aids. On a 25 yd. indoor range with all this equipment their only competition was to see who could split the most arrows. How can this be enjoyable? To me it is sickening. I would rather fall in the creek, bow and all than to stand there dimming my sights or using any other gadgetry to make archery easy. The Indians lived and died by the

bow and arrow. They did not need it easy. They practiced and perfected their ability or they starved. If we want to participate in real archery we should all devote our time to practice with traditional equipment and try to stop the flow of junk that is invading our sport. I truly hope the move back to traditional archery (real archery) continues and all the gadgetry someday disappears.

Sincerely,
Philip Calbertson
York, S.C.

Dear John; and Honorable members of N B B A I have just recently joined your ranks as a member. It is a privilege to be one of a special few who respect archery enough to limit themselves to the use of time tested, practical, and very beautiful bows, as opposed to the ugly gadget that was dubbed the compound. Compound what? By no stretch of the imagination, does it resemble a Bow! Just some piece of machinery that shows that its owner will settle for the mediocre, one who wants things easy, and is not willing to invest his time to learn the *real way*. But one who is fool enough to invest *money*, and sometimes a great deal of money to have things a bit easier. OK, so the compound is probably here to stay. We just have to live with it. Please do all you can to convince game departments, that there should be separate seasons for real Bows and compound contraptions. There are far too many who want to hunt the Hard Way, *the easy way* with the compound.

Let the few remaining Archery Hunters hunt with the Bow, and the many contraption and gadget enthusiasts hunt their way.

Primitive archery is respect for what you hunt, where you hunt and most of all *why* you hunt. We all have our reasons, and I feel that traditional archers pretty

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much hunt for similar reasons, success is second, and hunting ethically is first in our minds.

Many thanks
Paul Zavadic

Hi Everyone!

Hope each and everyone of you had a blessed Christmas. We had a very frigid one here! But a good one—you should have seen the look on my 6 year old son when he unwrapped his new Jerry Hill Longbow! I made him a back quiver and now he is just like Dad. (But a better shot!)

Just got my Fall issue of the Newsletter. It's getting better! I wish there was some way quicker to get it across to everyone what the compounds and gadgets are doing to our beautiful sport of bowhunting. I'm afraid that they'll all wake up when it's too late. I won't give up here in my state you can count on that! I've converted many compound shooters to the recurve—the longbow just doesn't appeal here—why? I can't figure that out. It's so graceful, light in the hand but rugged—so forgiving but so forceful and oh, what beauty!

It's not for everyone I guess. I must be an incurable romantic! I look forward to many years with a longbow in my hand and a quiver full of arrows on my back, and especially my son along side sharing the same experiences.

Now, that the really cold weather is here it's time to start fletching up new arrows, building new strings and remembering friends old and new as I sit near the wood stove listening to the wind and snow outside. Happy New Year to all and God Bless.

Your pal,
Tom Rogers
Ohio State Rep.

Dear John,

Enclosed please find a check and my NBBA membership application because since meeting and talking with you at the Pennsylvania Bowhunters Festival and reading about the NBBA I feel that it is an organization I will be proud to be a member of.

I began shooting the bow at 10 years of age starting with a longbow and except for a short stint with a recurve, I still shoot one. Also I feel as the NBBA does, that sights, releases, string trackers and such paraphernalia have no place in true archery and that the compound bow should be outlawed as a hunting weapon. It is quite disheartening to see archery equip-

ment manufacturers prostitute themselves through the sale of "gadgets" which are about as closely related to archery as is a bird to a bull. It's time we as bowhunters begin to realize the damage that the "gizmo" style of bow hunting is having on our sport. If this kind of free style hunting is allowed to continue our seasons are going to become shorter to compensate for the rapidly increasing kill rate.

When a bowhunter ceases to practice and begins to sight in the true sport of archery is in danger. I am much relieved to see an organization such as the NBBA giving voice to the traditional archer-bowhunters plight. Keep up the excellent work.

For Bare Bow Hunting
Wes Waldron

Dear John Musacchia,

Just a note to tell you that I am really excited about joining the NBBA. I've really enjoyed the newsletter you sent with the membership package. I was very interested in the article by John Vlasich. John lived in Hannibal, Mo. and we became close friends & bow hunted together a few times. I shot a compound for 4 years with all the gadgets I could get my hands on. I watched John shoot his recurve with no sights and he shot as well or better than I with sights. It wasn't till after John moved away, that I realized what I was missing. I developed a freezing problem which I'm sure was caused by the gadgets and I switched to left hand, with a recurve after reading an article by Fred Asbel on instinctive shooting. Now I know what archery is all about. I wouldn't trade the thrill of shooting a recurve for nothing. I can hardly wait to tell John that I'm back to basics and really enjoy it!

Sincerely,
Jim Robertson

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by Virgil Duemler

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Mrs. Bushemi:—

I got a copy of your Newsletter (complimentary) the other day, and I've read the whole thing. I like the sounds of what your organization is doing. Please send me your membership information. I support Archery, especially Traditional Archery in all the ways I can. Before I forget to do it, I'd like thank you for your complimentary issue.

I'd like to take a moment to make a comment or two about what I've read in the Fall 1983 issue.

I feel that the compound Bow, (or an Advanced Archery System), and the gadgetry that was bound to come with, was inevitable. Now the cams that have been applied to the basic compound, have given us what could be called the super compound. In another 5 or 10

years, someone will come up with something else. By choice I don't shoot that way. The longbow is my first love, but I do shoot a recurve now and then. To argue against the compound as adamantly as some of your readers do, is to argue against man's history and ingenuity. How many of them live in a cave? Wear animal skins to cover their nakedness, and to warm their bodies? And which one of them uses a bow to protect his home (cave) from the dreaded saber-toothed tiger, and put all the meat he consumes on the flat rock that acts as a table. By *choosing* to shoot an unaided longbow or recurve, he is making his own independent choice. So is the compound shooter.

As for comments on the longbow and recurve not having a place to compete, except for very few tournament around the country; long bow and recurve shooters only have themselves to blame for that. I shoot all over the state of Illinois, in field shoots hosted by different clubs, and I've seen other longbows only at 3-D animal shoots where NFAA classification or membership is *not* required. If the longbow shooter feels that the NFAA or the NAA or the state archery association of their state doesn't represent them, and so they aren't going to become a member, that's their choice. But don't blame that organization, blame the longbow and recurve shooters that don't band together as a group, and press for the representation and recognition within that organization. Organizations for particular groups are fine, but to work *together* with other groups to further the sport as a whole, should be one of their primary objectives.

In all the debates over equipment, in all the disputes over divisions and classification systems; and in all the genuine concern about the success rate effecting the length of our hunting seasons; in all these areas concerning archery, I don't hear anyone saying anything about one of the most important things in archery, People. I travel all over the state of Illinois enjoying my sport, and one of the things I enjoy most about my sport is meeting and enjoying archery with the people I meet. I've even traveled to other states, and it's the people I meet that make it all worth it. Another aspect along the same lines, is showing up for a shoot at a club where everyone shoots a compound with sights. After registering as a bowhunter (NFAA classification), then going to the practice area with your longbow. Try it, you'll find the compound shooter more inquisitive than you think but beware, the question

you'll be asked the most is, "how do you aim that thing?"

Thank you for listening. I hope to hear from you soon. May all your arrows find their mark.

Yours truly,
Keith Postill
La Grange, Ill.

Dear Sirs:

Would you please send me a membership application at your earliest convenience, and also some more information on your organization.

ON JOINING THE NBBA

by Gary Brodbeck

Why am I joining the NBBA? To answer this I'll ask, 'Why does one bow-hunt?' When I made my first bow using a piece of string and a branch of a scrub bush some 20 years ago, it had no wheels, cams, cables, or sights. My equipment allowed me the freedom and challenge of hunting. My shooting style was a most pure and innocent form of archery. I had to relearn how to draw, aim and loose the bow and arrow just as James Maurice Thompson who in his book, *The Witchery of Archery* (1877), "said that under Williams Tutelage they unlearned all they had taught themselves and acquired a new and satisfying technique."

In early times man 'instinctively' hunted for food as a predator, using the bow and arrow and other primitive weapons. Today, marketing has convinced the 'modern day bowhunter' to use a supposedly sophisticated means to hunt with. We now have an almost infinite selection of modern firearms in various gauges and calibers. There are the 'modern bows' with various release devices, sights and

I would also like some advice on how to set up the targets like you use in your annual shoot. I need to know how you rig them to the stumps, and also how you score the hits.

I am presently shooting a Bear take-down "Custom Kodiak" at 70#. I also collect old recurves and longbows and would be interested in corresponding with NBBA members with the same interests.

"Traditionally" yours
George Stout, Box 63
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BARRY SMITH & bighorn
ram taken with TD recurve

other paraphenalia. Every time marketing comes out with a "newer-better-faster" weapon (bow) or accessory, the 'archer' further clutters himself, convinced that his scores will improve, or his chances of harvesting a world record buck are increased.

Archers can hardly keep up with these so called 'technological advancements'. They are fulfilling the purpose of marketings design for what we are being told is still the sport and art of 'bowhunting'. The 'modern bow' and its' accessories, are designed to make it easier (not better) for the beginning archer. These training wheels and gadgets make it easier for the 'archer' to position, and reposition their bodies to good shooting form and allow a longer hold of the crosshairs on their quarry. In time a release (loose) may be developed, that is if marketing hasn't already convinced the 'archer' to use an artificial-mechanical release *aid*. Now the skill with this weapon has made the archer a killer, and because it is easier to learn how to become one, marketing is very happy (\$\$\$). Thus making ease, the reason for the increasing influx of so called 'bowhunters'.

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A "TRADITIONAL" PHOTO ROUNDUP. Archery that's challenging, not easier.

Congratulations to all those who sent in there trophy pictures and to all those who were successful during the 83 season.

If you'd like to share your trophy with us, send your photos on in. We make every effort to show them.



◀ John Schoenike, of Clinton Wisconsin, shown here with his 38th deer. John tells us he holds the record for taking the most deer in Wisconsin as a member of the Wisconsin Bow-hunters.



▲ Mike Boeckman, Minnesota Rep. did some snow shoeing while bagging this beautiful 10 pointer. This is the kind of buck we all dream about.

► This Wyoming Antelope belongs to David Roose of Michigan. It was taken Sept. 9, 83, with a 64 lb. Bear takedown recurve.



◀ "Maryland representative George Sevich with a 9-point buck bagged with a straight limbed forward handle custom bow made by Emil Pikula of Cleveland Ohio."



▲ NBBA Stump shoot 83 champ Billy Fowlkes of Maryland, continues his winning ways with this beauty. Bill will be there at the Stump Shoot again this year hoping to do it all over again.



◀ Ohio Rep. Tom Rodgers, went all the way to West Virginia for this 4 pointer. Tom used a 65 lb. Emerson Longbow with cedar shafts. We last saw Tom at the Pennsy Bow Festival. He sure gets around!

▼ Tom McCurdy of Colorado with his Bruin. Tom tells us his bow was a Bighorn 65 lbs. with Delta broadheads. Obviously just the ticket for this bear.



◀ Kelly Kemp of Brookings Oregon, is showing his muscles as he lugs his beautiful Roosevelt Elk trophy. This should hold a place of honor on his trophy wall. Kelly used a 78 lb yew and maple stick of his own make.



▲ Tom McCurdy, this time with a Pronghorn. A very productive year for Mr. McCurdy.

◀ South Dakota Rep. Lon Sharp was all decked out in white when he took this Mule deer. Lon used a Black Widow Bow at 25 yards.

ARCHERY: A PRIMITIVE SPORT?

by Allen I. Jacobs D.M.D.
NBBA Maine Representative

The following article was prepared at the request Val Marquez, of Maine Sportman's Magazine by Mr. Jacobs, NBBA Representative. The article has appeared in that publication.

When I started field archery back in 1958, I can still remember the indescribably exhilarating feeling of "stalking" around the archery course and shooting at a large moose target in a grove of pines, or a charging Grizzly Bear around the bend of the trail. These were the days of unknown distance shooting, recurve bows, and those strange "metal" arrows that the club hotshots carried. A bowsight was a definite conversation piece at this time. It was in vogue to grow a beard around August as the traditional preparation for Bowhunting Season.

In 1964, stabilizers were appearing on bows, "sight shooters" were in their own division, flexible "disappearing shelf" arrow rests were common and the first artificial releases made their debut at the National Field Championships.

In 1965, I had the privilege to observe and test one of the first prototype Allen Compound Bows, which quickly alerted everyone as to its weight let off, its speed, and its unparalleled ugliness. In spite of predictions to the contrary, this mutant in the sport really took off in the years to come and served to stimulate an unprecedented increase in archery interest and modernization.

Unfortunately, this very surge in production has served to completely divorce a large segment of the archery population from the beautiful sport that once was. It has now become accepted practice to march into your local archery range with a Cam Action Overdraw Compound bow equipped with at least one 36"-40" stabilizer and an artificial release with no less than a dozen parts. A good bowscope allows one to criticize the quality of the target print from 20 yards! Now one is fully prepared to enjoy the true challenge of this ancient sport, right?

Are you kidding? The public and the Fish and Game Departments have viewed the propagation of archery crutches and gadgets to be so extreme that bowhunting is no longer considered by many to still be a primitive sport. In many sections of the country, (ie: in the South and Midwest), we are in definite danger of losing our special Bowseasons!

Maine Representative, National Bare Bow Association; Regular Member, Professional Bowhunters Society; Certified Instructor, International Bowhunter Education Program; Certified Instructor, National Field Archery Association; National Field Archery Association; Maine State Archery Association; Maine Bowhunters Association; Alaskan Bowhunters Association; Maine Bowhunters

Club; Sportman's Alliance of Maine; National Rifle Association; Safari Club International; Fred Bear Sports Club; South African Bowhunting & Game Conservation Organization; National Longbow Association; Stump Sitters Study Club; 1981 MSAA Champion-Bowhunter's Division; President, Aroostook Archery Club; Owner, North Woods Archery Company.

Bowhunting studies indicate a general rise in the percentage and numbers of deer harvested, numbers of deer wounded, and a general increase in the distance that successful shots are taken. This reflects an increase in the number of bowhunters in the field, and a distinct increase in the efficiency of our tackle. The problem exists in that we are supposed to be enjoying the extra challenge of a primitive sport, not attempting to see how far archery research can go in "improving" our weapon. This was the rationale of the Fish and Game Departments in giving archery preseasons in the first place.

Undeniably, archery (with the ultra-modern archery equipment gadgets,) is easy nowadays. With a minimum of skill, a little instruction, a neophyte can become a self-proclaimed expert in a very short time.

Many other sports, notably Silhouette Pistol Shooting, have seen the problems we have in archery and have introduced equipment limitations preventing the ruin of their sport.

As of this moment, we have no "parent" archery organization ruling on equipment restrictions. The FITA Committee limits International Competition equipment (ie, no compounds or releases), but government departments (Fish and Game Departments, Department of Interior, etc) are more than able to do this, unless we decide that is really important in our sport and begin to govern ourselves.

In conclusion, archery is one of the most beautiful and versatile sports existing, and the compound bow is really very beneficial to the sport. It certainly allows

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ARCHERY PURISTS WILL APPRECIATE INDIAN REPLICAS

by Bob Gwizdz

The following article is printed with permission of Mr. Bob Gwizdz, Outdoor editor of the Fort Worth Star Telegram. Mr. Hamm has been an advertiser and supporter of the NBBA. His unique products make this article of particular interest to our members.

Editor

Bowhunters, by their nature, are purists. Perhaps rifle hunting has lost its allure, become too easy. Perhaps, since bows have a limited effective range, the thrill of taking a deer at 30 paces is more satisfying. Perhaps it's the thought of harvesting game as our ancestors did that makes the difference.

Even among bowhunters there are divisions. The compound bow that has become standard fare with modern-day archers is eschewed by some as belonging too much to the age of technology. Many bowhunters have abandoned their compounds in favor of long bows.

And then there are guys like Jim Hamm, who's so pure about the sport he makes Ivory soap look contaminated.

Hamm has deserted his rifle in favor of archery equipment all right, but he didn't do so by jumping on the modern archery handwagon. No Hamm went back, way back, back to the way mammals were hunted in this part of the country before white men hunted here. Hamm has adopted the weapon of the Plains Indian, the short bow, and has become so enamored with the sport that he's gone into business full-time reproducing the traditional hunting tool of our native residents.

"I was always interested in Indians," explains the 30-year-old Hamm, "ever since I was a kid. I just never grew up I guess.

"I've been fooling with bows and chipping flint points for them for the last 10 years or so," the Reno truck-driver-turned-primitive-weapon entrepreneur says. "It's taken about that long to get good at it. It's only been in the last year or so that I've been turning out decent bows."

Hamm's creations are almost exact replicas of the Comanche weapons, short, compact bows that could be easily handled on horseback and in brush, carved from osage orange to propel an arrow quickly and accurately, perhaps not so much so as a modern bow, but exactly

the sort of thing that kept the Indians in meat.

It's a painstaking process to manufacture such bows, and Hamm is true to tradition, using a tomahawk, stones, deer antlers—all sorts of unique tools to handcraft the bow. "The only power tool I use is a chain saw when I cut the trees for the logs," says Hamm.

Starting with a length of bois d'arc four to five inches in diameter, Hamm shaves the wood until he has a usable stave, that in itself, a hit-or-miss proposition. "Usually if you can get five bows out of 10 logs, you're doing pretty good," he says.

Only bois d'arc makes a truly good bow, says Hamm, though he sometimes uses hickory for less expensive pieces. And to make the bow more durable and more powerful, he stretches sinew (leg tendons) from buffalo and deer over the wood.

Sinew has some remarkable properties," he says, "better than fiberglass. When you put it on there it dries and shrinks, giving the bow a recurve. Sinew backing goes way back—the Turks did it, the Egyptians did it—a lot of people did throughout history."

In keeping with his purist attitude, Hamm makes his own glue from the buffalo and elk hides. "Some people ask why I don't use cattle," he says. "Well, the Indians didn't use it. I'm trying to stay as close as possible to the real thing."

Along that vein, Hamm makes his own arrow shafts from a willow type tree (exactly what tree "is a trade secret," he says), fletches it with turkey feathers, and pounds his arrowheads from buffalo bone or flint he picks up in the Edwards Plateau. "That's the thing that's taken the longest to do," he says. "It's the hardest thing to do and it's kind of a lost art—it's not the kind of thing you go to school to learn."

In all, it adds up to a full-time job just to make a couple of bows and a handful of arrows each month. It can take all day just to chip a few pieces of flint into shards that will make proper points, then a good piece of time to chip it into shape with an antler. Naturally, they don't come cheap. A quality bow costs \$380 (a snakeskin covering is a \$60 option) and arrows run \$320 a pop.

"This bow will shoot an arrow further into a target than anything but a compound," says Hamm, holding his 65-pound bow up for examination. "And it will send that arrow out there fast."

Fast indeed. Although Indian bows have traditionally been considered inferior by those with a long-bow inclination, Hamm can shoot a tight group with it, and the arrows hit the target quickly enough to guarantee they'd stop a deer.

"Far as I know, I'm the only one in the country doing this commercially," Hamm says. "There aren't very many people doing this to start with. I bet there aren't 10 in the country."

There's good reason for that. The work itself is tough on his hands. Working with stones for tools, doesn't appeal to every one and the financial rewards are minimal. Yet Hamm remains dedicated. "I'm not in it for the money," he says. "I did it for 10 years for nothing so I might as well keep on doing it."

Besides offering his bows and arrows for sale, Hamm has taught his craft at community college and hopes to get others as excited about truly primitive weapons as he is. Contact him at 1000 Oak Country, Weatherford, TX 76086 or call (817) 677-2769 if you share his enthusiasm.



Ryan Bauder 3 1/2, lets us know how he feels about the equipment situation. We like his support. Ryan is the son of Fred Bauder Jr. NBBA member.

ANOTHER WAY, THE BETTER WAY

by Tom Mussatto
NBBA Rep. ILL.

While bowhunting a large tract of public land a few years ago I came across two bowhunters on their way out of the woods. It was late November yet both were dressed in identical bright green camo and carried shiny new multi-wheeled arrow launchers filled with non-anodized aluminum arrows. We stopped and chatted for a few minutes and I kept noticing one of the gentlemen giving my equipment a thorough scrutiny. As we were about to separate and go our own way the one hunter finally asked me what I was shooting, but before I could get out more than 'longbow', he proceeded to tell me about the great piece of equipment he was using. Before leaving he was kind enough to tell me where such equipment could be purchased and what it cost.

As I made my way back to my vehicle I thought about what had just happened and of the many times this same type of situation had come up in the past. The most predominate feeling I had at this time was one of sadness and sympathy for these two bowhunters; as I'm sure they felt pity for the poor bowhunter they had just met who obviously could not afford "decent" archery gear. The bow I carried that day was one of the sweetest shooting and prettiest longbows I've had the pleasure to own and, in fact, having been custom made by one of the better bowyers today was more expensive than the cable contraptions these two gentlemen were carrying.

I am sure that these two hunters enjoyed themselves that day but I just can not believe that they had the same kind of experience that I had enjoyed. They had no appreciation of the simple beauty of the weapon I carried, nor were aware of the hours of work put into this bow by the skillfull bowyer who made it. I do not believe they would have understood my reasons for spending hours matching, balancing, and finishing birch shafts into hunting arrows, when all you have to do is lay down a few bucks for "ready to go" aluminum arrows. When I loose one of these arrows it is as if a part of me is heading out toward the game.

Everyone gets something different out of bowhunting and the time they spend at the sport; but with me it is more than just a hobby or something to do on weekends.

It truly is a way of life. My equipment and hunting methods reflect my simple life-style. Bowhunting is a part of my daily life.

I think it is important for the compound shooters and gadget hunters to realize that using longbows, wood arrows, single-blade heads, etc. is not an ineffective way to hunt. True, this type of hunting gear does require the hunter to become more involved in the sport by shooting more to maintain his efficiency, and it takes a great deal more time, skill, and patience to produce a good wood arrow than a glass or aluminum one. But isn't this what bowhunting is all about? I enjoy bowhunting, so I look for ways to increase the time I spend at it. It seems to me that the gadget hunters do just the opposite. They look for ways to get the kill the quickest with as little outlay of their time as possible. We have a three month archery deer season in Illinois and I like to use as much of that time as possible hunting. Maybe this is why the traditional archers seem to be the only ones really concerned with the threat of our seasons being shortened. Dropping a deer at 60 yards on opening day contradicts the very reasons I bowhunt.

I honestly believe that a good percentage of the compound and gadget hunters today, especially the ones who have gotten into the sport during the last ten years, are using this equipment because they are not aware there is another way. The manufacturers, archery shops, and archery publications are all pushing the modern equipment so it is no wonder that the people getting into the sport follow this lead. It is up to us, the NBBA and all the traditional archers across the country, to show there is another way. I happen to feel a better way. You will be surprised how many people will convert over to traditional equipment once they are exposed to it.

We need to start showing up at the bowhunter shoots, get pictures and articles in the leading archery magazines, and explain to whoever will listen what effect the modern equipment is having on our state hunting regulations and the attitude of the non-hunting public. The next time someone shows an interest in your recurve or longbow, talk to them about it, let them shoot it, get them involved.

There are people out there who are going to take the easiest way no matter what you do or say. This is human nature and applies to everything, not just bowhunting. However, there are hard-hunting,

dedicated archers around who are using the equipment they do because they have not been exposed to anything different. These are the ones we need to reach.

Like a good many bowhunters who have been around the sport for 20 years or so, I would like to see fewer hunters in the field. I miss the days when I could go all season and not see another bowhunter, when, if I did see a bowhunter he was carrying a stick bow, when I would be laughed at by the farmer when asking permission to hunt with archery gear but would always get that permission. The farmers are not laughing anymore and I get refused hunting privileges more often then I get them. Let's face it, the hunters are here to stay and their numbers will continue to increase until we lose our hunting seasons. I would much rather see these hunters using traditional equipment and having the attitude of the ethical bowhunter. Let's do what we can to get as many involved in the traditional way and help protect our primitive status with the state game departments. It is too late in life for me to take up bowling or golf and if we lose our bowhunting privileges a big part of my life will be lost also.

Tom Mussatto

MEMO

Want to remind the NBBA membership that for the past couple of years Illinois has allowed nonresident deer hunting. We have a long season and grow some big deer but apparently not too many out-of-staters are taking advantage of this. The amount of public land available to hunt is somewhat limited as compared to other states but it is here. I will be glad to help any NBBA members find good deer hunting on public ground and supply information on getting a non-resident Illinois tag.

Tom Mussatto
Ill. Representative NBBA
627 Ferguson Ave.
Wood River, Ill. 62095

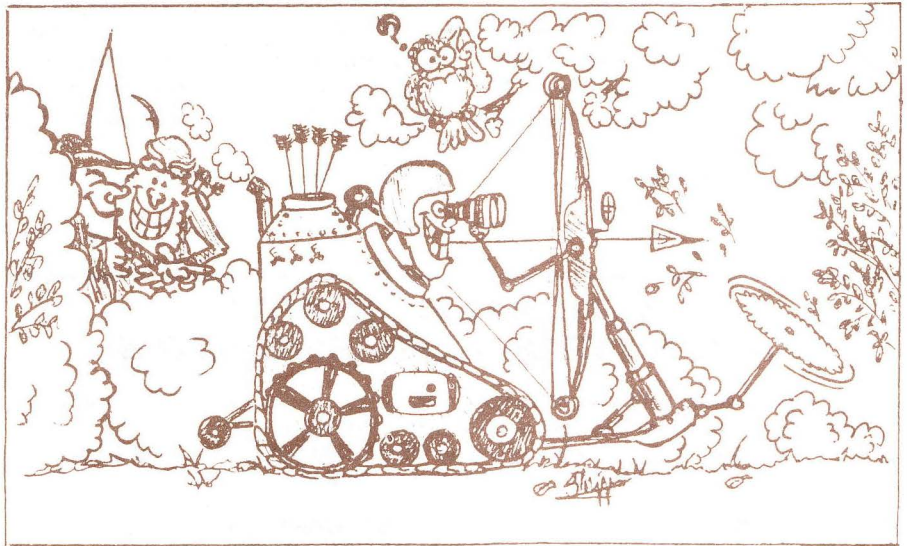
**Keep those pictures,
letters and articles
coming. This is your
voice. This newsletter
is what you make it!**

Joining the NBBA— Continued from P. 5

Every 'new idea and advancement' has led bowhunting equipment to approach that of gun hunting. Unlike gun hunting, modern bows are still utilizing the shooters own power to pull an arrow attached to a string. However, these modern bows do not use the tension of the bowstring on well trained arms and back muscles to tell the archer he is at full draw, and with good form. Instead, it is the lack of tension to a point of physical relaxation. The equipment requires different kinesthetic forms of archery. Let's look at it this way; it isn't like you've climbed a mountain to reach your goal. Instead, it's like you've walked into a valley. Which is easier and which is the greatest challenge?

Ask any so called archer which he'd rather harvest a deer with, a gun or a bow? Most will tell you a bow, of course. Ask any 'bowhunter' which he'd rather harvest his trophy buck with and he'll tell you a stick bow, of course. Sure, in the right hands, they'll both cleanly secure a bucks demise as well as any rifle. The modern archers are just fooling themselves thinking it is the same challenge they had using the equipment of 20 years ago. If they could, they would still rather be dispatching their buck with the same old stick bow—with no sights or other paraphernalia. It's just that it has now become easier to learn and retain the skill with their weapon. In terms of the required training and challenge, there is as much a difference between a gun hunter and bow hunter, as there is between a bow hunter and a Bare Bow Hunter.

Everyone has the right to the confidence in, and expression of, his choice of equipment. Authors regularly comprise a chapter in their books concerning equipment preferences and what makes them confident and comfortable in their selection. I've never read a book that I hadn't disagreed with, concerning their ideas on equipment. Anyone can argue my points. However, the fact is, I recommend beginning archers learn how to shoot using the modern bows. It's easier to learn, just as it is to learn how to ride a bicycle using training wheels. However, *for me*, the real challenge of archery and bowhunting still lies with the romance of a stick bow, be it a recurve or longbow. To get back to my original question of why I am joining the NBBA? This is the answer.



Urgent Message— Continued from P. 2

in an excellent deer habitat and the necessity of curbing an excessive number of the critters. Crossbows are not legal and I believe one very important consideration in this regard is because its range and accuracy considerably exceeds either bow or shotgun. The fact that it makes an excellent poaching weapon is no doubt another consideration.

I wouldn't expect to have this problem in Oregon, and you probably don't expect to have it in Colorado or Missouri, or

Michigan either. But, **the state of New York has the problem and we need to help them.**

So take your pick of the New York legislators listed below *and drop them a line.* They will appreciate your concern and you will have taken a big step to keep bowhunting, just that.

Sincerely,
Vern Struble
NBBA Rep. Oregon

NEW YORK LEGISLATORS

The following are the names of Senators and Assemblymen on the Committees involved with Crossbow legislation. Take your pick. Let them hear from you as a concerned Bowhunter and NBBA member. **WRITE TODAY!**

SENATOR

John R. Dunne
Ronald B. Stafford
Caesar Trunzo
Richard E. Schermerhorn
Joseph R. Pisani
Owen H. Johnson

John B. Daly
William M. Steinfeldt
Franz S. Leichter
Martin M. Solomon
William T. Stachowski
George Onorato

Environmental Conservation & Recreation Committee
Room 711, Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12247

ASSEMBLYMEN

Maurice D. Hinchey, Jr.
Icilio W. Bianchi, Jr.
Alexander B. Grannis
George J. Hochbruecker
William B. Hoyt
Lewis J. Yeroli
May W. Newberger
Robert J. Connor
Patrick G. Halpin
Richard L. Brodsky
Vincent A. Marchiselli
Fredrick E. Parola, Jr.

Edward C. Sullivan
Elizabeth A. Connelly
Joseph T. Pillittere
Gregory R. Becker
Angelo F. Orazio
Michael J. Bragman
Paul D. Tonko
John M. Perone
Andrew W. Ryan, Jr.
John L. Behan
Anthony J. Casale
Robert A. Stranieri

Environmental Conservation Committee
Room 623, Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12248



A primitive sport— Continued from P. 8

many to enjoy the varied facets of our sport that might not otherwise be open to them due to illness, strength, time allowance for practice, etc. However, The Compound Bow's universal acceptance has opened a Pandora's Box of associated problems which may ruin our sport forever.

If bowhunters account for approxi-

mately 90% of the archery population and FITA already has strict regulation of equipment for amateur competition, there is really not a large segment left untarnished by what could be a dismal future.

Consider this seriously: it's your sport and your loss.

Allen I. Jacobs, D.M.D.

NATIONAL BARE BOW ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

The following list has been updated and is the current Representative listing by state. Those states not listed are available for NBBA Reps.

If you are interested in becoming an NBBA Rep., please write for details to NBBA, P.O. Box 1630, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

COLORADO

Don Dvoroznak, 2413 Lincoln St.,
Longmont, CO 80501

ILLINOIS

Tom Mussatto, 627 Ferguson Ave.,
Wood River, IL 62095

INDIANA

Art Kragness, 695 East 152nd St.,
Dolton, IL 60419

MAINE

Dr. Allen Jacobs, D.M.D.,
114 Canterbury St., Presque Isle,
ME 04769

MARYLAND

George Sevich, Box 1271,
Frederick, MD 21701

MINNESOTA

Mike Boeckman, 2045 Brookhaven
Dr., Shakopee, MN 55379

MONTANA

Paul Brunner,
Buffalo Trail Ranch Ovando,
MT 59854

NORTH CAROLINA

Richard Rumpfelt, 13 Oak Street,
Belmont, NC 28012

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Val Marquez, RFD Box 183,
Springvale, ME 04083

NEW YORK

Doug Kerr, 41 Hobson Ave.,
St. James, NY 11780

OHIO

Tom Rogers, 3971 Shawnee Trail,
Jamestown, OH 45335

OREGON

Vern Struble, P.O. Box 3004,
Corvallis, OR 97339

PENNSYLVANIA

David Means, 911½ Rose Ave.,
New Castle, PA 16101

SOUTH CAROLINA

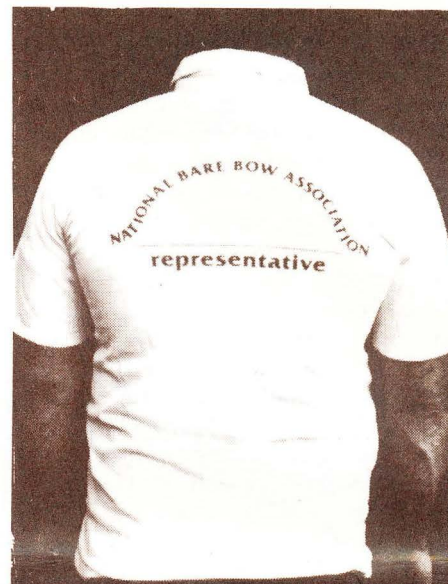
Philip Culbertson,
507 W. Old Limestone Rd.,
York S.C. 29745

SOUTH DAKOTA

Lon Sharp, Box 624, Hot Springs,
SD 57747

TEXAS

George Black, 229 Ironwood Ave.,
Hereford, TX 79045



Shown above, our beautiful designed NBBA shirt. Available to all members with member lettering. Design repeats on front pocket. Two colors, white or ivory with green lettering.

National Bare Bow Assn.
P.O. Box 1630
Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10017

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